

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T CAIRO 17979

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG
SUBJECT: IN RESPONSE TO FAHMY

REF: STATE 313152

1. MET WITH FAHMY THIS AFTERNOON TO CONVEY TO HIM
SUBSTANCE OF RETEL. IN DOING SO, I EXPRESSED YOUR
APPRECIATION FOR HIS CANDID RESPONSE TO YOUR EARLIER
MESSAGE, RECALLING THAT FRANKNESS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT
INGREDIENT IN YOUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OF PAST FEW YEARS.
IN SAME SPIRIT YOU ARE ALWAYS DISAPPOINTED WHEN FAHMY
ACCEPTS CONTENTIOUS REPORTS RATHER THAN FIRST INQUIRING
ABOUT THEM. THIS SIMPLY BURDENS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH
FURTHER UNHELPFUL CHARGES AND COMPLAINTS. THE STORIES
ABOUT LIBYA AND YOUR ALLEGED STATEMENTS ON ISRAELI AID
LEVELS ARE CASES IN POINT. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE THE SUB-
JECTS ARE IMPORTANT, WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE
TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON THEM.

2. FAHMY TOOK THIS IN GOOD SPIRIT AND AGREED THAT
CONTINUED CANDOR BETWEEN US IS ESSENTIAL. HE CONTENDED,
HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE VARIOUS REPORTS
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AT FACE VALUE, BUT WAS SIMPLY INQUIRING. HIS QUERIES,
MOREOVER, WERE THE RESULT OF SPECIFIC PRESIDENTIAL
INSTRUCTIONS. SADAT, HE CLAIMED, HAD HEARD THESE
REPORTS AND WAS SUFFICIENTLY UNEASY ABOUT THEM TO GIVE
INSTRUCTIONS THAT WE BE QUERIED.

3. I THEN GAVE FAHMY IN DETAIL THE POINTS ON LIBYA (PARA 4 REFTTEL), AID LEVELS (PARA 5), AND SUDAN (PARA 6). HE LISTENED WITH GREAT INTEREST AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION. HE ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE US WITH GOE'S ANALYSIS OF THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN LBYA. HE INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO SEND ALL OF THIS INFORMATION TO SADAT WITHOUT DELAY AND ASKED THAT I GO THROUGH THE THREE SUBJECTS AGAIN IN DETAIL WITH HIS CHEF DE CABINET, USAMA AL-BAZ, SO THAT THE LATTER COULD TAKE NOTES AND PREPARE A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT. I DID SO.

4. ON THE MATTER OF REDUCTION IN US AID TO EGYPT IN FY-78, FAHMY MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT, PERHAPS BECAUSE I POINTED OUT THAT ANY SUCH REDUCTION WOULD NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH. IN CONTRAST, AL-BAZ EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT A REDUCTION. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE AID PIPELINE WILL IN ANY CASE BE OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE THAT ANY SLIGHT REDUCTION WILL NOT AFFECT THE OVER-LL PROGRAM. THIS SEEMED TO SATISFY HIM. I SHALL MAKE THE SAME POINT IF EITHER FAHMY OR THE PRESIDENT RAISES THE MATTER.

5. AS I WAS LEAVING, FAHMY ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU AND NANCY HIS AND AFAF'S WARM GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

6. COMMENT: MEETING WAS RELAXED AND WITHOUT HISTRIONICS. NKOMO HAD JUST BEEN IN TO SEE HIM AND WAS GIVING A PRESS CONFERENCE OUTSIDE. FAHMY CLEARLY APPRECIATED THE QUICK, FORTHRIGHT AND COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES TO HIS SEVERAL QUERIES. I THINK HE FELT A LITTLE ABASHED AT HAVING
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TAKEN SOME OF THESE STORIES AT FACE VALUE.
EILTS

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NNN

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